

## COMPASSION

The President's 2008 Budget reaches out to individuals, families and communities by promoting initiatives that offer assistance to those in need, care for the sick and a more comfortable life with better opportunities for the future by:

- Supporting homeownership and housing assistance through increased resources and program innovations;
- Housing more low-income families;
- Working to end chronic homelessness;
- Supporting Faith-Based and community programs;
- Supporting community service;
- Providing health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children;
- Promoting nutrition assistance programs; and
- Preventing and responding to global and local health challenges and humanitarian needs.

### **Supporting homeownership through increased resources and program innovations:**

- HOME Investment Partnership Program: The Budget provides nearly \$2 billion for the HOME block grant program – an increase of over \$150 million – to expand the supply of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing and provide rental assistance to low-income families and individuals.
  - *American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI)*: As part of the HOME program, ADDI increases the number of minority and first-time homebuyers by helping low-income people overcome barriers to homeownership, such as down payment and closing costs.
- Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Mortgage Program: The Budget proposes changes to FHA's Mortgage Program to help increase homeownership, particularly among minorities and first-time homebuyers, by expanding access to mortgage credit.

### **Housing more low-income families:**

- Section 8 Vouchers: The Section 8 program provides rental support to 2 million low-income families and individuals, offering stability and the opportunity to move toward self-sufficiency.
  - In addition to the proposed \$16 billion for the program – an increase of over \$900 million over the current 2007 level – the Budget would release unused excess balances at public housing authorities (PHAs) enabling approximately 180,000 additional low-income families to receive housing assistance.
  - Proposed reforms will align incentives for PHAs to utilize their funds and assist more low-income families

**Working to end chronic homelessness:** By creating new supportive housing options, the Administration continues its commitment to end chronic homelessness and its causes by expanding:

- Homeless assistance grants: \$1.6 billion, a \$200 million increase, to house the long-term homeless, treat their addictions and provide assistance for a physical or mental condition.

### **Supporting Faith-Based and community programs:**

- Compassion Capital Fund: \$75 million to provide training for capacity-building and technical assistance for grassroots Faith-Based and Community-Based Organizations (FBCOs). This includes funding for Communities Empowering Youth, an anti-gang initiative which aims to build the capacity of faith-based and community coalitions that work to reduce gang involvement and youth violence.
- Abstinence education: \$204 million will fund abstinence education that is designed to reduce pregnancies among adolescents and the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents.
- Mentoring children of prisoners: \$50 million to establish enduring, quality mentoring relationships for children of arrested and/or incarcerated parents.
- Access to Recovery (ATR): \$98 million to fund 20 competitive grants that expand access to treatment and recovery support services.
- Helping America's Youth: A Presidential initiative led by the First Lady to raise awareness about the challenges facing America's youth. This initiative also promotes a community and family based approach to find new partnerships and creative solutions to improve the lives of boys and girls.

### **Supporting community service:**

- Corporation for National and Community Service: \$829 million for the Corporation for National and Community Service to continue its core national service programs and generate service opportunities for more than 3.1 million Americans. The Budget supports the President's goal of enrolling 75,000 AmeriCorps members.
  - AmeriCorps: A network of local, state, and national service volunteers that participate in intensive community service programs and address our country's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.
  - Learn and Serve America: Supports and encourages service-learning throughout the United States, and enables over one million students to make meaningful contributions to their community while building their academic and civic skills.
- **Providing health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children**: State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) has provided \$40 billion over the last 10 years to States to provide health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children who were not eligible for Medicaid. The 2008 Budget proposes to:
  - Reauthorize SCHIP for five years;
  - Increase funding by approximately \$5 billion over next five years; and
  - Refocus the program on children below 200 percent of poverty levels as was originally intended.

### **Promoting nutrition assistance programs:**

- Food Stamp reauthorization:
  - Excluding all retirement savings when determining eligibility for food stamps will expand the number of food stamp eligible individuals and allow recipients to save more of their earnings for retirement.
  - Protects service members and their families by ensuring that food stamps are not lost due to combat-related military pay.

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC):
  - \$5.4 billion to serve an estimated 8.3 million low-income American postpartum women and their children under five per month. The Department of Agriculture is issuing updated WIC food packages that reduce maximum allowances of certain foods and increase the intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.

**Preventing and responding to global and local health challenges and humanitarian needs:**

- The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR): \$5.4 billion to HIV/AIDS programs worldwide. \$4.2 billion to AIDS/ HIV treatment, prevention and care activities for two million people in 15 focus countries. An additional \$1.2 billion will fund worldwide HIV/AIDS bilateral programs, research, and contributions to multilateral organizations.
- President's Malaria Initiative for Africa (PMI): \$300 million to assist national malaria control programs to advance the program's goal to cut malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 target countries in Africa. Aid from the American people has already reached five million Africans through partnerships working in the first three focus countries,
- Humanitarian needs:
  - *Responding to needs in Sudan:* Continues to be the world's leader in providing food, water, shelter and sanitation and other assistance to support the victims of violence in the Dafur region of Sudan.
  - *Protecting refugees:* Providing protection and basic life support assistance for and protecting refugees, conflict victims and internally displaced persons overseas. Continues to lead the international community in refugee resettlement.